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To: <lcllyde@waterboards.ca.gov>
CC: David Keller <kelmaks@svn.net>, <pcopperfist@aol.com>, <pjjjp@sonic.net...>
Date: 8/7/2005 8:19 PM
Subject: Incidental Runoff Policy

Dear Lauren,

It has come to my attention that the serious issue of incidental runoff is being considered as an acceptable action, and policy to support discharges into our waterways during even the summer months, and is being seriously negotiated at this time.

I have seen the result of summer "unintentional discharges" in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, and this summer, they are again, not pretty sights, smells or pretty biotic results. For an impacted waterway, the existing allowable discharge is unacceptable.

I would like to see a tightening of the runoff regulations, making it a violation for any unpotable (ie. clean, healthy, water free of harmful substances including but not limited to: pharmaceuticals, bromides, chlorides, nitrates, nitrites, phosphates, bacteria, PCE, TCE, MTBE, and other diesel and fuel chemical classes, pesticide and herbicide residues, with high levels of oxygen) to enter a waterway. This should be from point source or non-point source. This should take into consideration the cumulative impacts of other "incidental" and/or "accidental" spills and certainly be regarded in the greater context of any mixing that is proposed. This should perhaps especially apply to dairy farms, cities, large commercial and housing projects and any septic systems directly impacting a waterway. Summer effluent levels in the Laguna and Russian River are at an all time high now. I suggest that efforts to tighten regulations be aligned with enforcement efforts with teeth, not the wrist slap or overlook that is currently occurring with repeat offenders. This is certainly not the time to be allowing further impacts to an already seriously impacted waterway.

Your agency has continued to Permit for Pollutant Dumping under even the new NPDES guidelines to agencies that are not practicing what they have applied for or who have not adequately monitored for effects on wildlife.

Again, I urge you and your agency to tighten regulations on any incidental or other runoff into our sensitive waterways that we are working to restore so that salmon, steelhead, otters, kingfishers, waterfowl and other micro and macro fauna and flora can thrive.

Very Sincerely,

Douglas Emery
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